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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0687
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KPKO, HA, XL, BL
SUBJECT: BOLIVIA COMMITS 200 ADDITIONAL MINUSTAH PEACEKEEPERS

REF: 10 STATE 12558

¶1. (SBU) Per reftel request, Embassy La Paz Military Group officer spoke with Bolivian Defense Ministry representatives and confirmed that the GOB plans to replace its current UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) presence of 205 peacekeepers with a fresh contingent within two weeks.

¶2. (SBU) The GOB also has made a formal offer to add a 200-person motorized company within 60 days. Defense Ministry sources said the UN had accepted the offer and agreed to fund the unit's salaries. The agreement now requires only final approval by President Evo Morales. The motorized company, comprised of troop carriers and trucks, would be deployed for approximately three to four months before its likely replacement by a follow-up unit.

¶3. (SBU) GOB military sources said they would need sea lift assistance in transporting the company's heavy equipment from Arica, Chile to Haiti. In addition, the sources said the GOB would likely have a specific equipment request, to include battle-dress uniforms, containers, field kitchens, kevlar helmets, anti-ballistic vests, and night-vision goggles.
Creamer